

— **LIVING** —
GENEROSITY

ONE HOPE **STELLENBOSCH**



**BEING MEANINGFULLY PART OF
A COMMITTED COMMUNITY
IS GOD'S IDEA OF WHAT
IS GOOD FOR US**

ONE HOPE

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1

**WHY DO WE BELIEVE THAT
GOD HAS CALLED US TO LIVE
GENEROUS LIVES?**

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2

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE
IN THE CONTEXT OF
THIS COMMUNITY?

MARK 12:43-44

⁴³I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴They gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything - all she had to live on.

LUKE 12:21

So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.

RICHARD ECKERSLEY

“Consumerism constantly seeks ways to “colonise our consciousness and as consumerism spreads, the goal of marketing becomes not only to make us dissatisfied with what we have, but also with who we are. We focus on the blind accumulation of more, on the assumption that this will somehow make us happier. *Consumerism both fosters and exploits the restless, insatiable expectation that there has to be more to life.*”

1

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MATTHEW 6:19-24

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²²“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

MATTHEW 6:19-24

²⁴“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

C.S. LEWIS

The faint, far-off results of those energies which God's creative rapture implanted in matter when He made the worlds are what we now call physical pleasures; and even thus filtered, they are too much for our present management. What would it be to taste at the fountainhead that stream of which even these lower reaches prove so intoxicating? Yet that, I believe, is what lies before us. The whole man is to drink joy from the fountain of joy. The New Testament has a lot to say about self-denial, but not about self-denial as an end in itself.

C.S. LEWIS

We are told to deny ourselves and to take up our cross in order to follow Christ – and nearly every description of what we shall ultimately find if we do so contains an appeal to desire. If there lurks in most modern minds the notion that it’s a bad thing to desire one’s own good and earnestly hope for enjoyment, it is because it has crept in from the teaching of Immanuel Kant and the ancient Stoics. Certainly, it has no part in the Christian faith. Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak.

C.S. LEWIS

We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy has been offered to us. We are far too easily pleased, like an ignorant child who goes on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by an offer of a holiday at the sea.

2

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE
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THIS COMMUNITY?

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15

¹We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ²for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴begging us earnestly for the favour of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. ⁶Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15

⁷But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

⁸I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

¹⁰And in this matter I give my judgement: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-15

¹¹So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have.

¹²For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. ¹³For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness ¹⁴your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. ¹⁵As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”